

MNMM Fatal 2004-10

- Machinery Accident
- June 1, 2004 (Michigan)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Superintendent
- 49 years old
- 4 years experience

Overview

- The victim was operating a dragline that rolled into a 20 feet deep water-filled pit. He jumped from the dragline as it rolled into the water but became entangled in the crawler track.

Boom of dragline in water



Overview of scene

Pit and bank

Dragline after pulled
from water.



Boom has been damaged by fall into water and recovery efforts. Recovery cables had been attached to boom.



Why Did Accident Occur?

- The victim failed to lock the crawler track brakes before preparing to dig. The inertia of the boom while in the swing mode and the slope of the ground at the water's edge contributed to the dragline rolling into the water.

Causal Factors

- The track brake on the dragline had not been locked in the "on" position.
- Limited training had been provided to the victim before he operated the machine.

Best Practices

- Ensure that only experienced and fully trained equipment operators operate equipment in potentially hazardous locations.
- Ensure that mobile equipment is positioned a safe distance from the edge of water before performing work.
- Ensure that the machine's track brakes are set before performing work.
- Require flotation devices be worn by persons operating mobile equipment in the vicinity of water.